

FASTENER FOR USE WITH SHOES

Inventor: GERARD J. TATE
718-769-7908

Abstract

A fastener device for use with shoes, sneakers and boots of the type having eyelets therein which allows for both decorative elements and ease of installation. The improved fastener of the present invention each include a segment of rubberized or elasticized material connected between pairs of opposing eyelets by which the flaps of the shoes are drawn together allowing comfortable wearing and safety from accidental disengagement. The fasteners include a new mounting device which assures sturdy and continuing connection with more holding surface and an ease of disconnection.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to fasteners for shoes, sneakers and boots, and more particularly to a simple, inexpensive, safe and fashionable substitute for shoe laces in which the shoes can be worn and taken off without the need to remove the fasteners of the present invention.

Since the inception of the use of inelastic lace for a shoes, there have been numerous attempts at developing an easier and better way to fasten them.

There have been a number of attempts to combine various elements in order to arrive at an inexpensive, fashionable, easy to use system to fasten footwear to the user's foot.

Recent US patents do improve the art substantially but have flaws which the current invention overcomes.

The Gentry patent (4,733,439) uses a number of elastic strips, each of which have fasteners at both ends. Pins, rivets or hooks are used to hold the ends of the strips in the eyelets. The primary impediment to the Gentry reference is the difficulty of installation and ease in which the fasteners can work out of their attachments.

The Fortune reference (5214826) is a more current and uses a system similar to Gentry but improves it. Fortune uses a cylindrical segment having a longitudinal appendage extruding from it. The primary drawbacks of Fortune are that the longitudinal member cannot be changed and the connection will be subject to release due to lateral and vertical pressures. In addition there is a minimal holding area for the longitudinal member.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One of the objects of this invention is to propose a fastening device that delivers properly apportioned fastening tension.

Another object of this invention is to propose a device that is simple for the user to install and use.

GEAR 7A-12
120 FRANK
BK 12V NC
11279

Another object of this invention is to allow for a simple exchange of the longitudinal member for other colors or designs.

In the first embodiment, used primarily on running shoes where rather than circular eyelets, a lateral column type fabric holder is used for the standard laces, a hook like device as shown on Drawing A is inserted in the interior of the cylindrical lace holder and the other end is inserted in the opposing cylindrical lace holder each being connected with a rubberized or elasticized bungee of varying width, color and design. See Drawing 2.

In another embodiment for use in shoes, boots and sneakers with opposing circular eyelets, a first mating member having a thin cylindrical shaft with vertical apertures is inserted from the bottom through the circular eyelets in opposing eyelets. A second mating member with two ends separated by elastomeric bungee of varying width, color or design is attached by depressing the top of each end of the second mating member on to the vertical shaft.

The mating members will be made of a resilient material.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

With reference to the perspective view of Figure 3 there is shown a shoe with successive opposing cylindrical lace holders. Shown in position on such lace holders is the subject matter of the invention of the first embodiment.

With reference to the perspective view of Figure 4 there is shown a shoe having successive horizontal

eyelets. Shown in position on such eyelets is the subject matter of the invention of the second embodiment.

With reference to Figure 5 from the top view, the noticeable external features of the invention for fastening shoes, sneakers and boots are the curved stop ends and the central segment of elastomeric material which can be ornamentally designed.

With reference to Figure 6 a first mating member is illustrated which comprises an elongated curved segment having a covered longitudinal aperture shown as segment 7 extending partially there through. An elastomeric shaft (segment 8) extends radially outwardly from the opposite end of the first mating member.

The internal portion of the first mating member contains a cavity in which the distal end of the vertical mounting post is inserted and the increased diameter segments of such vertical post will be engaged in the cavity of the first retaining member. Thus, the first retaining member is adapted to be engaged onto and over the enlarged segments of the vertical post.

Both retaining members should be made of a molded resilient plastic material.

A second mating member (Figure 9) consists of a vertical mounting post which extends from a cylindrical shaped flange. The vertical post will be of such diameter that it will fit securely through the eyelets in the shoe. The mounting post has a uniform diameter throughout its length except for two increased

GERARD TARK

BK17W 11279

769-7909

diameter segments (Segment 10 and 11) along its length. The purpose of such increased diameter segments is to secure the first mating member and the second mating member by the user pushing vertically on the top of the first mating member. Once the cylindrical aperture (7) of the first mating member is installed on the mounting post of the second mating member, the first mating member will stay securely in place. However, by the exertion of vertical and lateral force, the two members may be separated without damage.

What has been discussed is the preferred embodiment of the instant invention it should be appreciated that the invention may be embodied otherwise than is herein specifically shown and described and within such embodiment, certain changes may be made in the form and arrangement of the parts without departing from the underlying ideas or principles of this invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A fastener apparatus for use with footwear of the type having opposed pairs of eyelets therein, said fastener comprising:

A first mating member comprising a curved stop end and a central segment of elastomeric material connecting the opposing pairs of the first mating member

a second mating member having a vertical post extending from a circular

base with said vertical post extending through an eyelet in the shoe

means for securing and removing the first mating member from the second mating member

2. The article as described in claim 1, in which a segment of elastomeric cord between the opposing stop elements provides the means of securing the ornamental elements thereon.
3. A fastener apparatus wherein said segment of the second mating member is essential cylindrical in shape with two extended longitudinal flanges
4. A fastener apparatus wherein the extended longitudinal flanges in claim 3 fit securely into the receiving hollow of the first mating member
5. A fastener apparatus in which the stop members comprise essentially an elongated spherical shape.
6. A fastener apparatus where the central segment of elastomeric material is held firmly in place by the stop members ;
7. A fastener apparatus recited in claim 6 where the ornamental elements consist of various colors of elastomeric material
8. A fastener apparatus which has detachable securement.

To whom it may concern;

How are you, Ok here I go, I want to make you guys/lady's happy with me 100% but I had a friend help me with the app, Now if/when you send it back to me I will have a patent lawyer look over the information and he will help polish it to you liking. Please understand that it cost a lot of money, which I don't have but am trying to get when [god willing] it's granted. Which then I will be for ever grateful to you, so I couldn't use him to start/print up this app. but he said he would help me with it if its sent back? I trust his word. Your office informed me that I could try to market it when I express it in, so wish me luck! My invention is greatly improved from any other in many ways and is listed in the app, they say that all I had to do is improve it, and I did it for the betterment of all everyone is happy with it! Hope you are. God bless and happy holidays!!!

GERARD TATE

120 FMMIC 4+

BK17W 11729

719 769-7909

Cross reference

I feel that I improved on an already existing design, as you will see, the person is Roy Fortune no# 5218426 . I took into consideration that they will be worn everyday in play and exercise and be subjected to vertical/lateral pressures; also the holding power between the designs is able to keep up with the pressures applied by holding more elastic within. When it comes time to change my proposed invention is easier to disconnect with the inverted spoon design, which offers an extension that over shoots the eyelets to grab, to snap off as shown in the drawings.